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THE INFORMATION OF Tho: Dangerfield GENT.

Delivered at the BAR of the

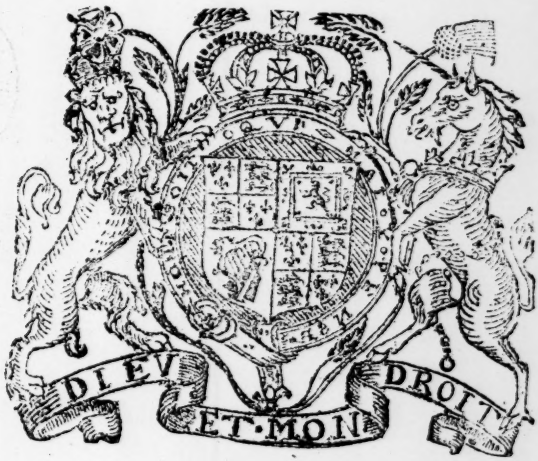
Houſe of Commons,

Tuesday the Twentieth day of *October*,
In the Year of our Lord 1680.

Peruſed and Signed to be Printed According to the Order of the Houſe of Commons,

BY ME

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, *Speaker.*



Re-printed 1680.

THE INFORMATION OF THOMAS DANGERFIELD Gent:

About the Months of September or October 1679.

WHen Mrs. *Cellier* and my ſelf waited on the Lord *Peterborough*, to be introduced to His Highnes the Duke of *York*, his Lordſhip enquired of me, If the Lady *Powes* had given me any directions how to diſcourſe the Duke I replyed, She had. Then he deſired to know what they were. Upon which *I* ſhewed his Lordſhip a little Book in which was contained a Scheme, and the pretended Diſcovery which *I* had made in the Presbyterian Plot, Which Book his Lord-ſhip carefully peruſed, and finding ſome omiſſion therein, he ordered me to Write, while his Lordſhip did dictate to me theſe words, *viz.* That the Presbyterian party intended to make an inſurrection in the North, and ſo to joyn with an Army of the Scots. *I*mmediatly after this his Lordſhip took us into the Dukes Cloſet (at *White-hall*) where we both kiſſed his hand: and me he took from the ground (for *I* was kneeling.) Then *I* gave his Highneſs the aforementioned little Book, which he, after ſome ſhort peruſal thereof, thanked me for: and alſo for my diligence in the Catholick Cauſe: Did adviſe me to go on, and wiſhed good ſucceſs to all my undertakings; Adding in theſe very words, *viz.* That the presbyterian Plot was a thing of moſt mighty conſequence, and if well managed, would be very Conducible to the ſafety of

the Catholick Cauſe: And *I* do not queſtion but the effects of it will anſwer our Expectation, eſpecially in the Northern parts: where I am well aſſured the Major Part of the Gentry are my Friends, and have given ſufficient Demonſtration of their affections to me, as alſo of their intentions to proſecure this Presbyterian Plot to the utmoſt; for they were no ſtrangers to the Deſign.

Immediatly after this his Highneſs ordered that Mrs. *Cellier* & my ſelf (in the hearing of the Lord *Peterborough*, who was privy to the whole diſcourſe) to be very careful of what we communicated to the perſons who were to be the witneſſes in that new plot, leſt we ſhould be caught in the Subornation, and ſo bring a terrible Odium upon the Catholicks, and make our ſelves uncapable of any further Service. After this the Duke informed us, That in a Month or two's time the Commiſſions would be ready but ordered us in the mean time to bring our part to bear with the Commiſſions: And particularly ordered me to find out ſome perſons (as there was enough ſuch among the Catholicks, as well as elſewhere) which were fit to be truſted, and that ſhould accept of ſuch Commiſſions which ſhould be delivered them by a perſon appointed for that purpoſe but not to be known to them to be any other but a Presbyterian: So that when occaſion ſhould require: they might together with thoſe which we then had, be ready to ſwear in the Plot, and that the Presbyterians were raiſing Forces againſt the King and Government, and had given out Commiſſions to that purpoſe. And in Order to this, I did in ſome ſhort time after, procure one *Bedford*, *Curtice*, *Grey*, *Hill*, *Hopkins*, and others, to accept of ſuch Commiſſions, when they ſhould be ready: Whoſe buſineſs in the mean time was to ſpread reports in the Coffee houſes, That the Popiſh Plot was a Contrivance of the Presbyterians, *&c.*

Now for our encouragement in the proſecution of that Sham plot, the Duke promiſed that he would take care that money ſhould not be wanting: but ordered us to uſe all the Expedition the thing would allow, to make a diſcoverie thereof to the King. After which the Duke ſaid, The Catholick party would be eaſed of the Charge, in regard he was ſure it would be defrayed ſome other way

Then the Duke made divers vows, and bitter Execrations, to ſtand by us in the thing: and engaged on his Honour to be our Rewarder. Adding, That ſuch Conſiderable Services were not to be ſlighted: and further promiſed, that to whoſe lot ſoever it ſhould happen to be impriſoned, according to their fidelity and ſtedfaſtneſs in the Cauſe, ſo much the more ſhould their Reward be augmented: and that all care poſſible ſhould be uſed to ſupport and preſerve them: but particularly deſiring me to keep up to the couragious and active Character which his Highneſs had heard of me. All which *I* promiſed to do. Whereupon we withdrew to the Lord *Peterboroughs* Lodging, where we continued till his Lordſhip had Introduced Sir *Robert Peyton* to the Duke. Which being done, his Lordſhip left them together, as he ſaid, and came to us: Where among other

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Diſcourſe his Lordſhip told me, I had a great opportunity to make my Fortune what I would my ſelf, if I would but follow the advice of his Maſter the Duke of *York*, who, as his Lordſhip ſaid, would certainly be my King in a very ſhort time. Adding, that I muſt be reſolute in my undertakings. For, ſaid he, the Duke much affects Reſolution, but hates mortally the timorous man.

Then I anſwered his Lordſhip, That I valued not my life, provided, to loſe it would be ſerviceable to the Duke's Intereſt. At which Expreſſion he ſeemed fully ſatisfied; and from that time call'd me Captain *Willoughby:* and at our coming away, his Lordſhip gave particular order to his ſervants, that at what time ſoever, day, or night, either Mrs. *Cellier*, or my ſelf, ſhould come to ſpeak with his Lordſhip, we ſhould be forthwith admitted. And then we parted.

Some ſhort time after, I went to wait on his Lordſhip from the Lady *Powis* at midnight, to deſire him to move the Duke, to get me with all expedtion, to the King, for then I was ready.

About four days after this, his Lordſhip ſent for me, and took me to the Duke again (who was in his Cloſet at *Whitehall*) and the Duke told me, I muſt prepare my ſelf to wait on the King, to give His *Majeſty* a more particular Account of the Presbyterian Plot than what the little Book made mention of, (which Book, the Duke ſaid, he had given to the King) and that he had ſo ordered the matter, that I ſhould be furniſhed with money, to enable me in the proſecution thereof. But his Highneſs charged me to conſider well my Story before I waited on the King.

Then the Duke told me, I had gained, by my Diligence, a good Reputation among the Catholicks, and that I ſhould highly merit by my Service to that Cauſe. adding, That I ſhould in a ſhort time ſee the Catholick Religion flouriſh in theſe Kingdoms; and Hereſie torn up by the Roots: And that he had heard of the propoſal which had been made me by the Lord, *Powis*, and *Arundel*, about Taking off the King, and of my refuſal; as alſo of what I had accepted, touching my Lord *Shafisbury*, and of all my Tranſactions in the Presbyterian Plot: ſaying in theſe very words, *viz.* If you value the the Religion you profeſs, my Intereſt, (as you ſay you do) and your own future Happineſs; take my advice, and depend upon my Honour and Intereſt for your advancement: For, Sir, you look like a man of Courage and Wit: therefore leſs Diſcourſe may ſerve with you than another: So that if you will but move by the Meaſures which I will give you, you ſhall not only eſcape with ſafety, but be rewarded according to the greatneſs of your Actions.

To all this I replyed, I would ſtand and fall in the Defence of the Roman Catholick Religion, and his Highneſs Service; and was not a little concerned for my refuſing to kill the King, whom I was then well ſatisfied by my Ghoſtly Father, ſtood condemned as an Heretick. But this I did offer, That if his Highneſs would Command me to the Attempt, I would not fail either to accompliſh it, or looſe my life,

Upon which the Duke gave me Twenty Guineys, and ſaid, If I would be

but

but vigorous in what I had undertaken already, he would ſo order it, that my Life ſhould not be in the leaſt danger adding in theſe words, *viz.* We are not to have men taken in ſuch daring Actions, but to have them make an effectual Diſpatch, and be gone. Upon which I took my leave.

Some ſhort time after this, when I was ready to convey the Letters into Colonel *Manſel's* Chamber, I went to the Lord *Peterborough*, who brought me to the Duke to whom I told, how I was ready to fix the Letters in the Colone's Chamber. To which his Highneſs anſwered, *I muſt make haſte*, that I might be impowered to make a general Search of the like nature. For, ſaid the Duke in theſe words, *viz.* Since I ſaw you laſt, the Lady *Powis* has informed me, That there are aboundance of Letters and Witneſſes ready: ſo that 'tis now high time to begin. By this time there was ſome great Man come to wait on the Duke, ſo I withdrew.

About four days after this, when I had been preſſing earneſtly with Mr. Secretary *Coventry*, for a Warrant, and could not prevail, I went to Lord *Peterbourough's*, and did deſire his Lordſhip to make application to the Duke, to uſe ſome means for a Warrant. To which his Lordſhip anſwered, 'Twas my fault there was not a Warrant granted, and that the Duke was ſenſible of my neglecting to make an Affidavit. So that now he did begin to doubt my Courage.

Thomas Dangerfield.

In and about the Months of June, July *or* Auguſt 1679.

THE Counteſs of *Powis* ſent me with a Letter to the Lord Privy Seal, who was then at his Lordſhips houſe in *Kenſington*: but the contents of the Letter I remember not, more than that it was to pray ſome favour in the behalf of one *Anderſon* alias *Munſon*, a Prieſt, and then in the *Kings Bench*, and was reported to know ſomething of the Plot. Which Papers contained matter of Fact, drawn up to render *Strouds* Teſtimony invalid, in caſe he ſhould make any Diſcovery. And by my Ladies order I was to pray his Lordſhip to take the Papers: ſo that if *Stroud* ſhould be ſent for on Examination before the Council, that his Lordſhip would produce them to ſtop his Evidence: Which his Lordſhip promiſed to do. But *Stroud* was not ſent for, and ſo the Papers were of no uſe: but I ſuppoſe they may ſtill remain with his Lordſhip.

At the ſame time I did, by Order from the Lady *Powis*, inform his Lordſhip, That the Presbyterian Plot would be ready for Diſcovery in a months time. To which his Lordſhip anſwered, that I ſhould tell the Lady *Powis*, He was of opinion that a month would be to ſoon, in regard things then moved with too much violence, for ſuch an Affair to have any Succeſs. So I took my leave.

Some ſhort time after I went, by the Lord *Powis'* Order, with another Letter to his Lordſhip; the Contents of which I never knew: But was ordered

to

to acquaint his Lordship, That the Presbyterian Plot still went on; and that we had divers Letters and Witnesses ready, to lay open the matter, when it should be thought fit. To which his Lordship answered, he feared the Lords in the *Tower* were too vigorous in that Design: but promised, when the rigorous Prosecution against the Catholicks were somewhat abated, he did intend to move it to the King and Council. Adding, That if things of that nature were but well timed, they could not fail of Success. So I took my leave.

Some time after, *Mrs. Cellier* and my self went to wait on his Lordship at *Kensington*; where we both had admittance. Then 'twas *Mrs. Cellier*, in my hearing, informed his Lordship, That she came in the name of her Great Master (the Duke of *York*) and at the most earnest request of the Lords in the *Tower*, to pray his Lordship to use some means, that the proceedings against the Catholicks might be more easie, and that the Presbyterian Plot might be discovered. Then his Lordship desired her to let the Lords in the *Tower* know, that he was not idle in the considering their *Safety*: For, added his Lordship, in these words, I have my self discoursed lately with all the great Ministers of our party, and my Lord *Peterbourough* has done the same, and we both find there is favour intended: but we must wait the time: For things of that nature must be moved gently, or the whole Royal Party may be destroyed at once for there are many eyes upon us.

Then *Mrs. Cellier* informed his Lordship, That Sir *George Wakemans* Tryal had broken the Ice, and of the great difficulty there was in prevailing with the Lord C. J. to come over: and also of the Meeting that was between the Lady *Powis* and the Lord C. J. To which his Lordship replyed, That the Lord C. J. had taken more time to consider of his part, then Five other far greater men had done (who they were I know not) and that his Lordship was forc'd to shew the Lord C. J. the Duke of *York's* Letter, before he would believe any thing. Nay, said his Lordship, notwithstanding this I was so c'd to get a particuler Letter sent him from the Duke, before he would make any promise. Truly, Madam, said his Lordship, 'tis no small pains I take to serve the Duke, and their Lordships, and that you may assure them.

Then Mrs. *Cellier* acquainted his Lordship, That *Dugdale* was come about, and intended to throw himself at the Dukes feet, with a Recantation of all that he had sworn in the plot. And said she, I am in the name of the Lords, to pray your Lordship he may be secured in your house, a being a place more proper than any other. To this his Lordship answered, He was glad to hear of Mr. *Dugdale's* ingenuity in that Affair, and did assure *Mrs. Cellier*, that *Dugdale* should be entertained in his House, and that his Lordship's Priest should be his companion, so that it should be impossible for him to do any more mischief. But his Lordship desired she would tell the Lords they must use all the means imaginable to get him beyond Sea, least a too strict enquiry should be made after him.

To which *Mrs. Cellier* replied thus; My Lord we do not intend he shall

stay

ſtay in your Lordſhip's Houſe above Nine or Ten days: for though he muſt do us Service by a general Recantation, yet we can never think him ſafe till we have got him into the Inquiſition: for ſuch perſons are to be Encouraged, not truſted. So upon this his Lordſhip ſent a Complement to the Lords in the Tower, and ſo we came away,

Thomas Dangerfield.

Jurat viceſimo die
Octobris, 1680.
Coram nobis

Will. Roberts,

Will, Pulteney.

FINIS.